12/3/69

Dear Ron,

The one copy of the addition to COUP D'ETAT I was able to spare you have never had a chance to read. I now have another such copy and I am hoping to be able to make some xerox copies, very few, tomorrow. I am not able to pay for this, so I haven't had them. However, I've found a xerox I can use and have permission for imposing on a friend for three or four copies. I'll need two for copyrighting, which I think I should do immediately. I need others for an assortment of the kinds of purposes most writers do not have to keep in mind, as you'll see when I bring you up to date. I have a friend at Berkeley who has a new machine available, where two pages are reproduced as one for 3¢ a sheet or 1.5¢ a page, and when I can promote this small sum, I'll have more copies.

A friend has interested a new, small publisher of whom I've never heard, Moore Publishing Co., Durham, N.C., whose Gil Barker called me and asked for it night before last.

Despite the many preessures against this general subject, there are possibilities for a little intellectual judo, one of the more promising coming from the Agnew ploy, in which so many officials, including Kliendienst, joined. For most of this year I've been trying to get the public record of the Ray extradiction hearing from the government, which has it and, under the so-called Freedom of Information Act, must make it accessible to me. For the longest time they just didn't respond, then I got a lawyer to write them, then they took three months to answer (this delay in itself is a violation of that law). Finally Kliendienst himself told me, in writing, that a) the Department of Justice doesn't have this material and b) if it did it would be exempt from disclosure as part of an investigative file! Well, they do have the papers, for I've been able to obtain a few privately, through a friend who went to England and saw someone who I knew had them and got copies for me. And Ramsey Clark himself certified each to the British court. I cannot now let it be known I have these papers, but I have about 75% of them. (My analysis in the book is 100% correct, they are contradictory to the "evidence" presented at the Memphis minitrial, the real reason they are suppressed.) And, with the backdrop of the complaints against the press, the complaining government is now claiming the public record of a public trial is an "investigative file"! I would like to think itx possible even LIFE might get interested in this, or maybe CBS, after Stanton's speech.

I have possibilities of support on three levels. An ACLU official is going to discuss this with me next week, a Washington Post reporter (covered the minitrial) is coming up to see it this weekend, and some former Kennedy people are to see me soon. Bobby's boys, now practising law.

I am aware of the problems you face. You may remember, I forecast them to you. However, I report that new material I have developed on the JFK assassination is even more sensational than what I showed you. There now remains no doubt at all that there was at least one conspiracy within the government, to obfuscate what happened, and that at least one part of this was under direct military order. I have enough to do what will not happen, put professional people in jail. By this I mean only much more than the law requires. Here also I will soon be filing a suit against the government. My hope is I'll be able to get this written before the suit is filed. Among the things I now have in my possession tu t were suppressed is an autopsy document (color positives) with the President's blood on it. XXX The optimist in me makes me hope some major element of the media can get turned on, especially because of the new official moves, and that there could be enough coming from it to pay for the private publication of the works from which these things come.

If those who face their own problems with the government, the FBI witnesses and the official word, including in court, could realize the importance of what I have for them, perhaps they also might get interested.

As you know, my title was taken and I need a new one. What do you think of J'ACCUSE!?

I will send you a xerox as soon as the collating is done. You should have it the early part of next week. It will have the corrections in it, will be properly paged, etc, as the NCR copy is not. It also has the quoted documents reproduced in facsimile. Unless you prefer xeroxing this for England, I can also send you the second NCR copy for that purpose. It is identical with what I gave you and you gave Baron.

Although there seems no possibility, I remain of the opinion the only way this stuff can be brought to light is by initial private publication by offset, which, in turn, will now require outside help of which there also is little prospect. Once I have taken the heat, republication, as with the first two books, is possible. Dell and Dial rejected WHITEWASH three times in manuscript, then sold more than 400,000 copies three months in reprint.

There are also some angles that may be within possibility in magazine treatment. If there were enough in this to interest you, it would also interest me. For example, I have a connection between Oswald and the Penkovsky case. This is uncomplicated and I have the direct proof and the official but suppressed beclouded and belated "investigation".

LIFE had their internal fight on this in 1967 and has decided against my side. However, if you know anyone there or at LOOK who could be trusted not to leak back to the government what I have, do you think it would be a good idea for us to try and see them with copies of what I have?

Hope you had a good trip.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg